

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 13-14 and amend the remaining claims as shown below. An unmarked version of the claims is provided on separate sheets as a convenience for the Examiner.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, performed by a search engine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:
determining tokens;
assigning related expressions to each of the tokens responsive to the ~~step of~~ determining
to define each of the tokens;
searching documents responsive to the ~~step of~~ assigning;
identifying occurrences of any of the related expressions for any of the tokens in any of
the documents responsive to the ~~step of~~ searching; and
assigning each of the documents, having at least one of the related expressions for at
least one of the tokens, to the at least one of the tokens responsive to the ~~step of~~
identifying to create an index.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 1 wherein the ~~related expressions~~
~~for one of the tokens is the same for at least one other of the tokens~~ describe at least one of: time
zones, time units, month, date, day of the week, distance, length, speed, temperature, currency,
IP address.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 1 wherein the related expressions
for each of the tokens is different for each of the tokens.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of:~~ assigning related tokens to one of the tokens responsive to the ~~step of providing~~ assigning related expressions to further define the one of the tokens.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 1 wherein the ~~step of~~ indexing further comprises ~~the step of:~~ organizing the related expressions for each of the tokens in the index.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of:~~ providing information about the tokens to a user of the search engine.

7. (Currently Amended) A method, performed by a search engine, comprising ~~the steps of:~~
receiving a search query;
identifying at least one token in the search query responsive to the ~~step of~~ receiving,
wherein related expressions are assigned to the at least one token;
finding the at least one token in an index to identify documents, having an occurrence of
at least one of the related expressions for the at least one ~~the~~ token,
corresponding to the at least one ~~the~~ token responsive to the ~~step of~~ identifying;
and
providing information related to the documents responsive to the ~~step of~~ finding.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 7 wherein the ~~step of~~ identifying further comprises ~~the step of~~: detecting a predetermined character that identifies one or more keywords as the at least one token.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 7 further comprising ~~the step of~~: providing feedback related to the accuracy of the at least one token.

10. (Currently Amended) A method, performed by a search engine, comprising ~~the steps of~~:
performing a background routine, during a first amount of time, including comprising the
~~steps of~~:

(a) determining tokens;

(b) assigning related expressions to each of the tokens responsive to the ~~step of~~
determining to define each of the tokens;

(c) searching documents responsive to the ~~step of~~ assigning;

(d) identifying occurrences of any of the related expressions for any of the tokens
in any of the documents responsive to the ~~step of~~ searching; and

(e) indexing each of the documents, having at least one of the related expressions
for at least one of the tokens, corresponding to the at least one of the
tokens responsive to the ~~step of~~ identifying the occurrences; and

performing a foreground routine, during a second amount of time substantially less than
the first amount of time, including comprising the steps of:

(f) receiving a search query;

(g) identifying at least one token in the search query responsive to the ~~step of~~ receiving;

(h) finding the at least one token in an index to identify documents, having an occurrence of at least one of the related expressions for the at least one the token, corresponding to the at least one the token responsive to the ~~step of~~ identifying the at least one token; and

(i) providing information related to the documents responsive to the ~~step of~~ finding.

11. (Currently Amended) A method, performed by a user interface device, comprising the ~~step of~~:

receiving from an input source a search query that includes at least one token, wherein related expressions are assigned to the at least one token;
sending the search query to a search engine responsive to the ~~step of~~ receiving; and
receiving from the search engine information related to documents, having an occurrence of at least one of the related expressions for the at least one the token, responsive to the ~~step of~~ sending.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for searching and retrieving documents comprising:

a database for storing ~~adapted to store~~ documents;

a memory device for storing ~~adapted to store~~ software, tokens, and an index, wherein the software includes a background routine and a foreground routine, wherein each token has related expressions assigned thereto, wherein the index has documents, having an occurrence of at least one of the related expressions for at least one of the tokens, assigned to the at least one of the tokens;

a user interface device for accepting and sending ~~adapted to accept and send~~ search queries having at least one token and for receiving ~~to receive~~ information related to the documents, having an occurrence of at least one of the related expressions for the at least one of the token; and

a controller electrically coupled to the memory device, the user interface device and the database, for managing ~~and adapted to manage~~ communications between the memory device and the user interface device responsive to the foreground routine ~~in the software~~ to respond to the search queries having the token, and for managing ~~and adapted to manage~~ communications between the memory device and the database responsive to the background routine ~~in the software~~ to create the index.

13-14. (Canceled)

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